

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 091742Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5779

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 00246

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, BE, CG

SUBJECT: DAVIGNON IN ZAIRE TO DISCUSS NATIONALIZED BELGIAN
ASSETS

REFS: 75 BRUSSELS 09717, 75 BRUSSELS 10756

ZAIRE DESK OFFICER (JAENEN) TOLD US THAT FOREIGN
MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL DAFVIGNON AND AFRICAN
DERECTOR LE BRUN IN KINSHASA JANUARY 8-9 TO BEGIN
"DELICATE" DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO PLANNED
MEETING OF SECOND WORKING GROUP - CHAIRED BY
FOREIGN MINISTERS BULA AND VAN ELSLANDE - IN KINSHASA
FEBRUARY 5-7. JAENEN CALLED THE FIRST WORKING GROUP -
THAT WHICH DELT WITH BELGIAN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL
COOPERATION WITH ZAIRE - THE "EASY ONE", AND EXPRESSED
CONCERN THAT AGREEMENT IN THE SECOND WORKING GEUP -
ON QUESTION OF ZAIRE COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED
BELGIAN ASSETS - WOULD BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT AND
HAD POTENTIAL FOR ABORTING THE DIALOGUE AND
STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES. JAENEN SAID IMPORTANCE OF "AVOIDING
FAILURE" IN SECOND WORKING GROUP WAS REASON
DAVIGNON PERSONALLY UNDERTAKING THIS MISSION. HE
SAID THAT IF DAVIGNON SUCCESSFUL, TECHNICIANS
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WOULD FLESH OUT UNDERSTANDING ON COMPENSATION LATER

IN MONTH, AND THEN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE
WOULD VISIT ZAIRE FEBRUARY 5-7 WITH HIS "WORKING
GROUP" AND WOULD SIGN THE PRE-NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT.
HE STRESSED THAT IF DAVIGNON MISSION NOT INITIALLY
SUCCESSFUL, ZAIRE--BELGIAN TALKS WOULD CONTINUE AT
WORKING LEVEL SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO HINT OF
SETBACK IN IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.
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